

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter for insertion into the human body and which includes one or more optionally scanning ultrasonic transducers as well as a surgical instrument to be operated from the outside, wherein the catheter comprises at least two parts of a substantially completely circular or partially circular cross section, where a rod is inserted between said parts and at the end is provided with an ultrasonic transducer, said completely or partially circular parts being surrounded by an outer tube passed over the completely or partially circular parts, and where the surface of at least one of the completely or partially circular parts is provided with a longitudinal groove for the insertion of the surgical instrument, wherein the completely or partially circular parts removably engage each other and are kept together by said outer tube when the catheter is assembled, wherein the partially circular parts have abutting surfaces shaped so that they can be locked relative to one another, the completely or partially circular parts capable of being removed from the outer tube and disengaged from each other for sterilization/disinfecting purposes, wherein the surgical instrument is formed by a needle for the introduction of a substance or for the extraction of tissue samples, and wherein the longitudinal groove in the surface of one of the completely or partially circular parts is shaped such that the needle extends immediately below and parallel to the outer tube, and the longitudinal groove extends at least long enough along the length of the completely or partially circular part so that during use, a first end of the longitudinal groove is outside the human body and a second end of the longitudinal groove is inside the human body so that the surgical instrument can be inserted from outside the human body into the human body via the longitudinal groove.

Claims 2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A catheter according to claim 1, wherein the groove in the surface of one of the completely or partially circular parts ends in the surface of the circular part immediately below the outer tube.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A catheter according to claim 1, wherein the rod with the ultrasonic transducer can be rotated relative to the completely or partially circular part(s).

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A catheter for insertion into the human body and which includes one or more optionally scanning ultrasonic transducers as well as a surgical instrument to be operated from outside the human body, said catheter comprising:

a pair of substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts, the substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts removably engaging each other;

a rod inserted between said substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts, an end of the rod provided with an ultrasonic transducer; and

an outer tube passing over and holding the substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts together, wherein a surface of at least one of the substantially

completely or partially circular parts is provided with a longitudinal groove for insertion of the surgical instrument, the pair of substantially completely circular or partially circular cross sectional parts capable of being removed from the outer tube and disengaged from each other for sterilization/disinfecting purposes, wherein the surgical instrument is formed by a needle for the introduction of a substance or for the extraction of tissue samples, and wherein the longitudinal groove in the surface of one of the completely or partially circular parts is shaped such that the needle extends immediately below and parallel to the outer tube, and the longitudinal groove extends at least long enough along the length of the completely or partially circular part so that during use, a first end of the longitudinal groove is outside the human body and a second end of the longitudinal groove is inside the human body so that the surgical instrument can be inserted from outside the human body into the human body via the longitudinal groove.

Claims 10-12. (Canceled)